

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 10-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and claims 5, 7-8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, and 8, and has added new claims 17-22. No new matter has been introduced.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,583,846 (Yanagawa, et al.).

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the spacer is disposed between pixels, which are non-display areas. This amendment is supported in the specification in paragraph [0039] of Applicant's published application, United States Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0103803, which recites that the *spacers 141 and 142 are placed between the pixel areas*, and that the spacers are arranged to *prevent the spacers 141 and 142 from being placed on the pixel areas*.

Yanagawa is directed to a liquid crystal display device includes a first and second transparent substrates and at least one spacer for establishing a spacing between the substrates, a black matrix on the second substrate for defining a pixel area associated with the spacer, where the spacer is fixed to the second substrate and covered with a corresponding first kind or second kind electrode. Yanagawa discloses that a spacer is superposed on a central portion of an area forming a capacitor Cadd. The capacitor Cadd is a portion of a pixel electrode and serves to store a video signal supplied to the pixel electrode. Thus, Yanagawa's spacer is disposed on the inside of the display area of a pixel, contrary to the recitation of claim 1. (Yanagawa, Col. 6, lines 17-35, 57-65.) The embodiment of FIG. 15, also cited by the Examiner, discloses that the spacer is formed within one pixel area (Col. 14, lines 23-24).

Thus, Yanagawa fails to disclose all limitations of Applicant's claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is not anticipated by Yanagawa. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this section 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1, and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 5, 7-8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Yanagawa in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0223030 (Byun, et al.).

Applicant has amended claims 5 and 8 to recite that the spacer is disposed between pixels, which are non-display areas. As discussed above, Yanagawa does not disclose this limitation.

The Examiner cited Byun as disclosing a sealant in the shape of a closed loop, and a method of manufacturing an LCD including dropping a liquid crystal material on a substrate applied with a sealant, and combining the substrates under a vacuum atmosphere. Byun is directed to a system for fabricating a liquid crystal display using liquid crystal dropping and a method of fabricating a liquid crystal display using the same. However, Byun does not remedy the deficiencies of Yanagawa discussed above. Since the combination of Yanagawa and Byun does not teach or suggest all limitations of Applicant's claim 5 and 8, a *prima facie* case of obviousness of these claims over Yanagawa and Byun cannot be maintained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these section 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 10-11 depend from either claim 5 or claim 8, respectively, and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 5 and 8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicant has added new claims 17-22. New claims 17-18, 19-20, and 21-22 depend from either claim 1, 5 or 8, respectively, and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 5 and 8.

CONCLUSION

Applicant urges that amended claims 1-5, 7-8, and 10-11, and new claims 17-22 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated. Early and favorable action on this case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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